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The man might besides, have been detained by some unexpected accident, or misfortune, and a little of that "milk of human kindness," which our countrymen are seldom deficient in, when they are not irritated, should have induced them to make some inquiry as to that point, before they proceeded farther.

They should besides have considered that, coming from a country where strict punctuality, the writer is sorry to own, is not over common, they ought to have been more indulgent to the failings of our neighbours, in this point.

The man who sets forward in life, with a resolution to exact his strict right, in every particular to its utmost limits, will have pretty much such a journey through it, as those gentlemen, had across the neck of Scotland; and if they consider the matter in this light, they may receive ample compensation for what they suffered, in the case with which the lesson they have thus learned, may enable them to travel either literally on terra firma, or metaphorically, through the pilgrimage of existence.

Or at least if they do not, the remark may perhaps have this good effect on some of the readers of the Magazine, and if it has, the view of the writer will be answered which is in showing by this example the great advantage which the good old rule of "*to bear and forbear*," may be in ensuring a pleasant passage through the world, to contribute his mite to the sum of human happiness. The man who despises this rule will be sure to feel the curse of Cain." "His hand will be against every man and every man's hand against him." N.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
BY inserting the following, you will oblige a Correspondent.

I have frequently observed that our fires which are composed of turf, burn better at night, than in day light, this is the case when lime is burning, or bog lands, more especially, if it is in time of frost: in consequence of this the farmer is sure to attend

the burning of his bogs, if he has any, at night, because his fires burn better, this he does without knowing the reason why it is so. It is known that the solar light extinguishes our fires, and retards their burning; but the above will be the case, even when the sun is obscured by clouds for many days together. *Quere*—the reason. T.

Ballinahinch, Nov. 10, 1809

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THOUGHTS ON FRIENDSHIP.

Poor is the friendless master of a world;
A world in purchase for a friend is gain.

YOUNG.

THERE is no luxury so great; nor any to which men in all situations have more equal claims, than that of Friendship; but alas! how little do we reflect on the importance, or, how poorly do we appreciate the advantages resulting from it; no person at the time he professes friendship, but imagines he is possessed of all the requisites which constitute it, hence, the frequent exclamations of ingratitude, treachery, and hypocrisy which ever resound in our ears; hence, the person "hackney'd in the ways of men," looks on the world with a distempered, suspicious eye, thinks mankind only a compound of craft, and dissimulation, and because of his experience, never tastes the assuasive cordial with which Heaven has blended the bitter draught of worldly enjoyments.

How widely different would be our situation in this world, did we, first study ourselves, eradicate every unfavourable propensity from our hearts, cultivate every disposition that would encrease our own and our neighbour's happiness—and be careful never to give the imperative influence, or title of a bosom friend, to one whose age, pursuits, situation, and qualifications are not exactly corresponding with our own—not to have many friends, and to be extremely choice in our selections, that those may have our unbounded confidence, and justly merit our esteem—that when we have found this pearl of inestimable value, we should never give scope to our